

TABLE III-17: Roadless Areas of the Malheur National Forest

RARE II Number	Name	Acres
6231	Utley Butte	9,945
6232	Myrtle-Silvies	11,747
6233	Aldrich Mountain	4,951
6234	Malheur River	6,984
6235	Shaketable	7,137
6236	Dry Cabin	12,221
6237	McClellan Mountain	20,646
6239	Glacier Mountain	19,572
6241	North Fork Malheur River	18,276
6242	Baldy Mountain	6,431
6243	Dixie Butte	12,110
6244	Nipple Butte	11,525
6245	Fox Creek	5,879
6246	Flag Creek	7,789
6247	Cedar Grove	112
6248	Pine Creek	5,420
6251	Jumpoff Joe	4,006
6252	Greenhorn Mountain	16,197

Areas managed as semiprimitive, nonmotorized interact with other resources in much the same way as wilderness does. One exception is that these areas are not withdrawn from minerals development, although they may require special measures within the operating plans.

8. Scenery

The Forest provides a stunning backdrop for local communities and outstanding scenic variety. Scenic photos and descriptions of the Forest are used in local tourism literature. Forest visitors expect to see a natural-appearing landscape. This exists in most areas, even where resource management is occurring.

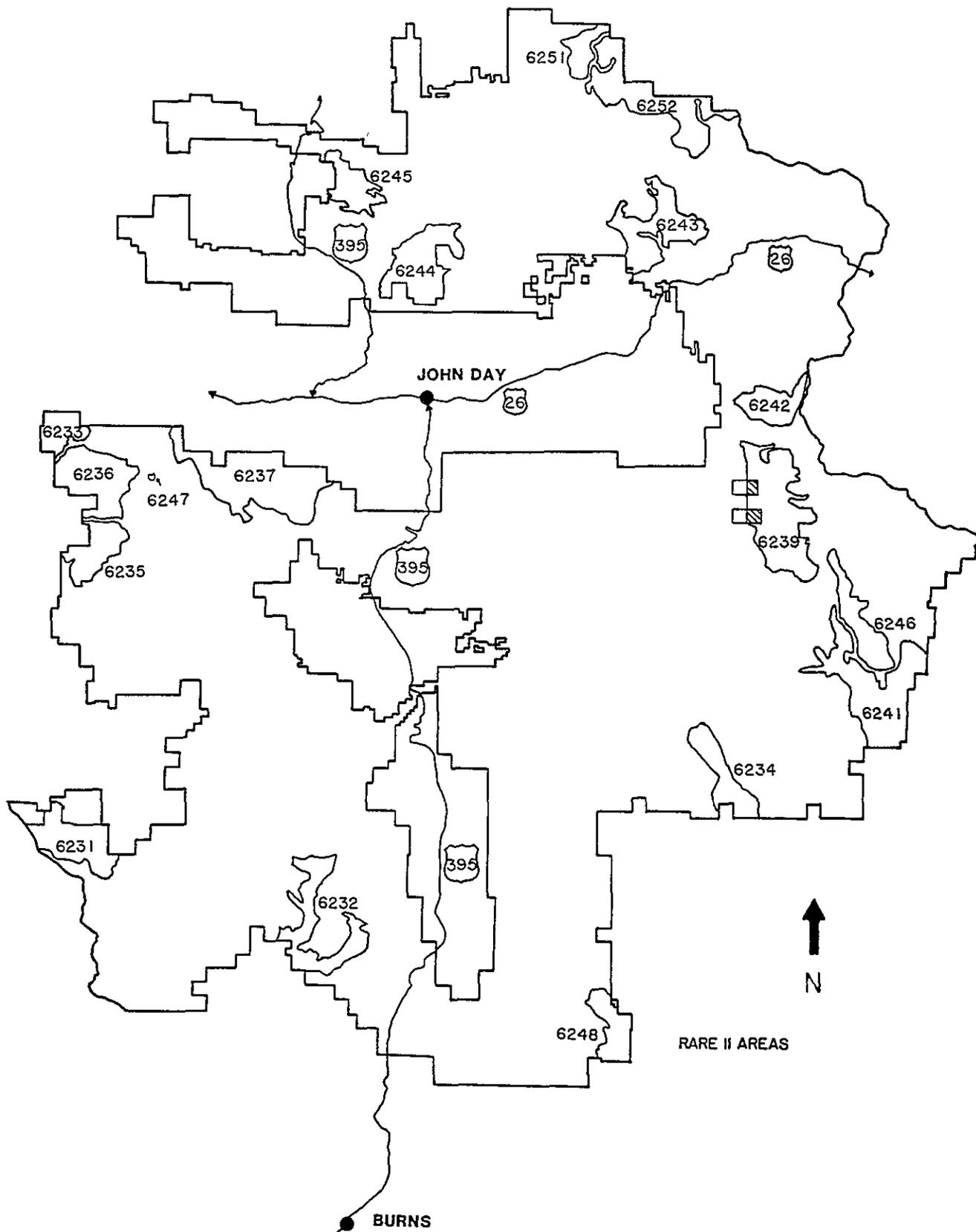
The majority of vehicle-oriented visitor use takes place in the roaded natural and roaded modified areas of the Forest. These areas contain roads that have been used for timber harvest. Sightseeing is second only to hunting as a popular dispersed recreation activity. Scenic quality within areas of resource development is clearly important. The landscape along many Forest roads is carefully managed to preserve that scenic quality.

In order to manage that landscape, the area which can be seen from the road is mapped. The area that would be seen after management activities is also considered. These mapped areas are called "corridor viewsheds."

The scenery along some roads is more important than that along other roads because of the number of drivers, the reasons people drive there, or other factors. Along those roads, the corridor viewshed includes both foreground and middleground. Foreground is an area within one-quarter to one-half mile of an observer, details of a landscape can be seen. Middleground extends 3 to 5 miles from the observer.

Table III-18 provides important corridor viewsheds on the Forest and the area in each one. The most sensitive corridors include both foreground and middleground acres. The location of these corridors is shown in Figure III-15. A discussion about interactions between management activities and scenery follows.

FIGURE III-14: Roadless Area Locations



a. *Relationship Between Forest Management and Scenery*

The obvious effect of timber management on scenery is alteration of natural- appearing landscapes. These alterations may contrast with the form, line, color, and texture of the natural landscape. Road building and clearcutting have the greatest potential for creating contrast. As the tree species follow natural succession from ponderosa pine to mixed conifer, impacts on the visual resource will become more evident because clearcuts are the most prominent treatment for regenerating these stands.

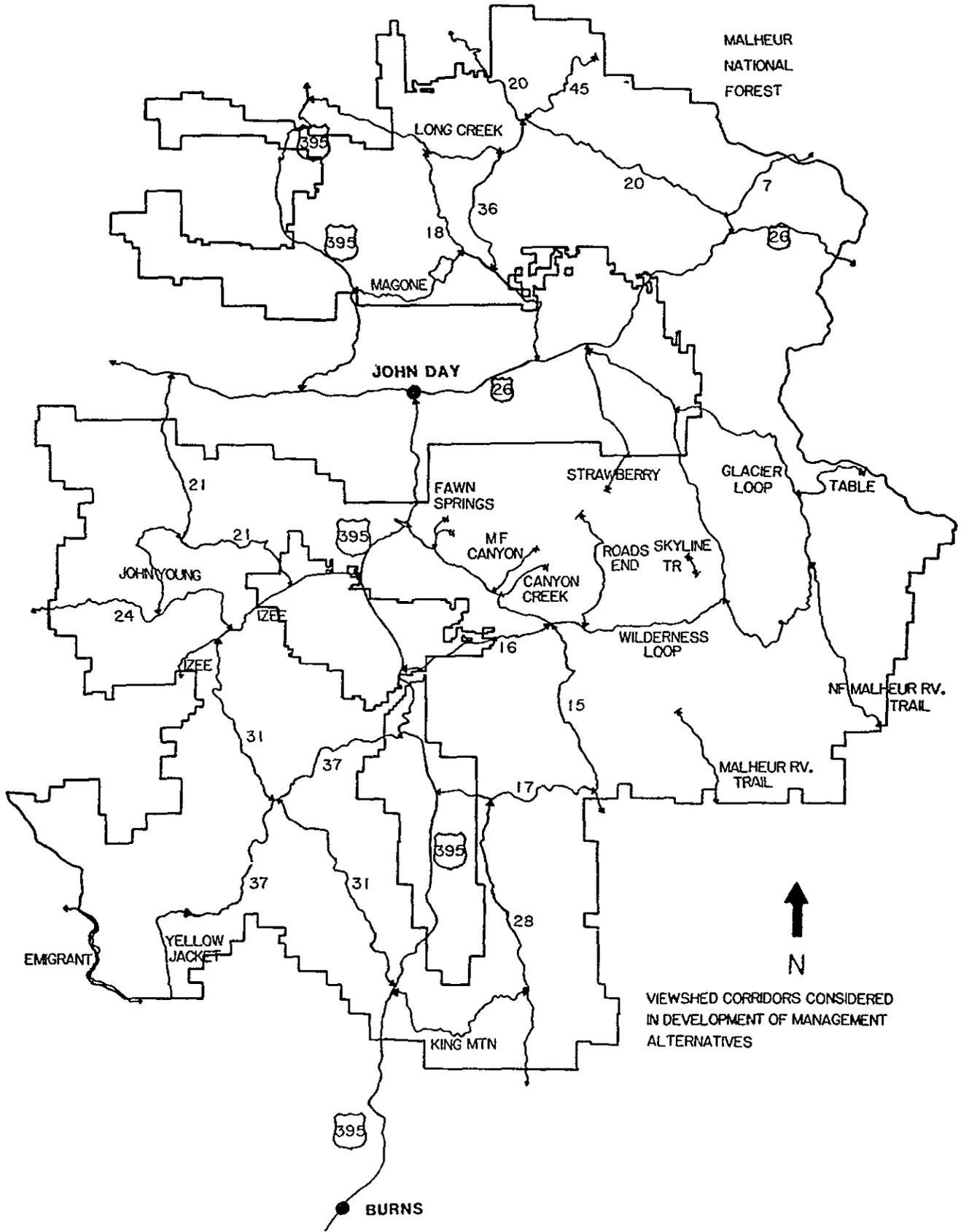
Through careful use of visual management principles and techniques, timber management activities can improve visual diversity of vegetation and increase viewing opportunities. They can also preserve the visual character of an area, particularly in ponderosa pine stands, because careful management can maintain large, yellow-barked tree characteristics. Without timber management or prescribed fire, those stands would continue through natural succession and eventually be replaced by young trees, primarily fir.

TABLE III-18: Corridor Viewshed Acres (acres)

Viewshed Corridors	Foreground	Middleground	Total
Highway 395	8,514	29,734	38,248
Highway 26	8,461	19,646	28,107
Highway 7	1,426	9,973	11,399
County Road 20	8,303	19,203	27,506
Wilderness Loop	21,560	41,131	62,691
Canyon Creek	684	2,866	3,550
Malheur River Trail	1,343	284	1,627
North Fork Malheur River	3,038	5,565	8,603
Fawn Springs	455	0	455
Strawberry	366	0	366
Emigrant	4,142	0	4,142
FS Road 37	9,166	0	9,166
FS Road 31	12,124	0	12,124
FS Road 24	9,994	0	9,994
Yellowjacket	4,675	0	4,675
John Young	2,778	0	2,778
FS Road 21	8,746	0	8,746
Izee	7,190	0	7,190
King Mountain	4,451	0	4,451
FS Road 28	8,110	0	8,110
FS Road 17	3,680	0	3,680
FS Road 15	5,490	0	5,490
FS Road 16	1,950	0	1,950
Glacier Loop	12,470	0	12,470
Table	1,122	0	1,122
Skyline Trail	958	0	958
Roads End	3,475	0	3,475
Middle Fork Canyon	1,587	0	1,587
FS Road 45	5,771	0	5,771
FS Road 36	3,035	0	3,035
Long Creek	3,787	0	3,787
FS Road 18	4,724	0	4,724
Magone	4,173	0	4,173

NOTE FS Road means Forest Service Road.

FIGURE III-15: Viewshed Corridors



The presence of cattle adds visual variety to the forest landscape. Livestock use of streamside zones usually creates some visual degradation of the landscape. Structural improvements such as fences and cattle guards are alterations of a natural-appearing landscape. Most structures can be made compatible through the application of visual design principles.

Wildlife sightings add to viewing pleasure. Habitat management of big-game winter range may affect visual quality as openings are created

The sight and sound of water adds diversity to Forest scenery. Riparian areas can provide scenery that is pleasing to viewers and enhances recreational qualities of the Forest.

Management of fish habitat generally produces visually-appealing scenery, but intensive instream habitat improvements, particularly log weirs, can result in unnatural-looking streams.

Recreation management is designed to enhance and complement the recreation experience of Forest visitors, including appreciation of scenic quality. Historic cultural resource properties add some visual interest to Forest settings, but these effects are minimal

Mineral resources have no interaction with visual resources until exploration or development activity occurs. Visual quality changes may occur as a result of road construction for drilling, mining, mineral extraction, processing and transporting, milling, waste disposal, and other activities. These changes might include clearings which enhance the visual diversity of an area, or they might involve intrusions on the naturalness of the landscape. Visual management objectives may be included as mitigation measures and reclamation stipulations in mineral operating plans

Fire is instrumental for creating visual diversity in timber and range ecosystems on the Forest. Differences in tree stand ages, subtle differences in color and line, and patches of stately, silver-colored snags are all evidence of previous fire activity. Large fires have created extensive areas of young trees and snags

High-intensity fire can damage vegetation and decrease visual quality. This is usually characterized by black, denuded slopes and stark, black caricatures of a former green forest. This catastrophic-appearing vista will, within 2 to 10 years, soften to create the diversity noted above. This scenario will have varying degrees of impact depending on its proximity to viewpoints. Viewed from a distance of 5 to 10 miles, impacts will be much less than when viewed from the immediate foreground.

Various applications of prescribed fire in visually sensitive areas will result in some scorching of lower limbs of trees and a landscape with blackened ground. This is particularly true in underburning, but effects are of short duration. Depending on the visual quality objective for an area, continued intermittent underburning can result in a long-term lack of visual diversity by developing unbroken vegetative stands. Underburning can promote vegetative and visual diversity by perpetuating open stands of mature ponderosa pine

Many Forest roads provide views of scenic forest settings. Scenic viewsheds are established along popular travel routes to maintain visual quality. Road systems built for timber harvest will have an effect on the existing natural conditions of some landscapes. Steep slopes, contrasting soil color, and reduced vegetation screening make it difficult to construct roads which are not highly visible

Visible roads in clearcuts and midslope areas have the greatest effect on scenery. Locating roads along ridgetops and in valley bottoms tends to retain scenic quality better than midslope locations. Valley bottom roads typically have been located adjacent to riparian zones. Visual impacts of these roads can be minimized by careful road location, narrow

width, and minimal vegetative clearing. Roads in visually-sensitive areas usually cost more to construct because of a need to reduce visual contrast of the cut and fill slopes.

Future construction of local roads for timber management can reduce visual quality. These roads may also improve viewing pleasure by creating scenic overlooks and additional sightseeing opportunities on a particular road.

9. Cultural Resources

There are extensive, fragile and nonrenewable cultural resources on the Forest, and on private and other public lands which are managed through cooperative programs (e.g., Range Evaluation project). These include prehistoric sites estimated to date from at least 8-10,000 B.C. to historic times, and more recent historic sites.

The Cultural Resource Management (CRM) program complies with provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (P.L. 89-665), Executive Order 11593- Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment, 1971, and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) of 1979 (P.L. 96-95).

The Forest Service Manual (FSM 2361 and 2363) is the primary guide for conducting the cultural resource management program. Used in conjunction with the Manual are the Code of Federal Regulations (Parts 36 and 60) and guides provided by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP). Various Programmatic Memoranda of Agreement (PMOA) documents are also utilized.

Cultural resources on the Forest occur in one of three relative chronological eras: prehistoric, protohistoric, and historic. The first represents American Indian activity up to the time of European contact and influence. The second represents unrecorded American Indian activity after the influence of European contact. The third, historical cultural resources, is the remains of European and American exploration and settlement.

The cultural resources found on the Forest include, but are not limited to, prehistoric quarries, workshops, campsites, caves, historic cabins, mines, railroad grades, and homesteads; and historic Forest Service structures such as lookouts, guard stations, and Civilian Conservation Corps campgrounds.

Inventory of cultural resources began in 1974. An overview of historical and archaeological resources of the Forests in northeast Oregon was completed in 1978. While early surveys often did not meet the National Historic Preservation Act standards, all surveys since 1981 have complied with those standards. Currently, cultural resource surveys are concentrated in areas with planned projects, such as timber sales, land exchanges, and range developments. Through the 1988 field season, 785,000 acres (54 percent of the Forest) had been surveyed.

The location of known and potential sites is confidential to protect them from vandalism. As of 1988, the Forest had inventoried 571 historic and 1,395 prehistoric sites for a total of 2,242 sites. There is potential for scientific recovery and study of the past 10,000 - 12,000 years of human existence in this region of Oregon.

As cultural resources are identified and recorded during a cultural resource survey, they receive a preliminary evaluation of significance. This preliminary evaluation follows criteria contained in FSM 2361 and 2363, 36 CFR 60.6 and 800, and various Programmatic Memorandums of Agreement (PMOA) between the USDA Forest Service (Pacific Northwest Region), Oregon State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Only the Forest Archaeologist or other qualified cultural resource management specialists conduct evaluations, and usually an evaluation is completed during the initial recording of a site.

Cultural resources are evaluated to determine if they qualify for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). This evaluation does nothing but determine